

7. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE
Kennedy OF Rhode Island, OR H is
DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES:

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1538, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY OF RHODE ISLAND
AND MR. SESTAK OF PENNSYLVANIA**

At the end of title I, add the following new section
(and conform the table of contents accordingly):

1 **SEC. 113. PLANS AND RESEARCH FOR REDUCING POST**
2 **TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.**

3 (a) **PLANS FOR REDUCING POST TRAUMATIC STRESS**
4 **DISORDER.—**

5 (1) **PLAN FOR PREVENTION.—**

6 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of De-
7 fense shall develop a plan to incorporate evi-
8 dence-based preventive and early-intervention
9 measures, practices, or procedures that reduce
10 the likelihood that personnel in combat will de-
11 velop post-traumatic stress disorder or other
12 stress-related psychopathologies (including sub-
13 stance use conditions) into—

14 (i) basic and pre-deployment training
15 for enlisted members of the Armed Forces,
16 noncommissioned officers, and officers;

17 (ii) combat theater operations; and

18 (iii) post-deployment service.

1 (B) UPDATES.—The Secretary of Defense
2 shall update the plan under subparagraph (A)
3 periodically to incorporate, as the Secretary
4 considers appropriate, the results of relevant re-
5 search, including research conducted pursuant
6 to subsection (b).

7 (2) RESEARCH.—Subject to subsection (b), the
8 Secretary of Defense shall develop a plan, in con-
9 sultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs,
10 the National Institutes of Health, and the National
11 Academy of Sciences, to conduct such research as is
12 necessary to develop the plan described in paragraph
13 (1).

14 (b) EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH AND TRAINING.—

15 (1) WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary of De-
16 fense shall conduct a study, in coordination with the
17 Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Insti-
18 tutes of Health, and the National Academy of
19 Sciences' Institute of Medicine, to determine the fea-
20 sibility of establishing a working group tasked with
21 researching and developing evidence-based measures,
22 practices, or procedures that reduce the likelihood
23 that personnel in combat will develop post-traumatic
24 stress disorder or other stress-related psychological
25 pathologies (including substance use conditions).

1 The working group shall include personnel with ex-
2 perience in a combat theater, and behavioral health
3 personnel who have experience providing treatment
4 to individuals with experience in a combat theater.

5 (2) PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

6 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall sub-
8 mit to Congress a plan for a peer-reviewed research
9 program within the Defense Health Program's re-
10 search and development function to research and de-
11 velop evidence-based preventive and early interven-
12 tion measures, practices, or procedures that reduce
13 the likelihood that personnel in combat will develop
14 post-traumatic stress disorder or other stress-related
15 psychopathologies (including substance use condi-
16 tions).

17 (c) REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit
18 to Congress annually a report on the plans and studies
19 required under this section.